

information storage part, in association with code information referencing the shape data.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management part, when the code information storage part runs out of a free space to store the code information, deletes code information for rendering from the code information stored in the code information storage part before being replaced by code information for subsequent rendering, so as to increase free space of the code information storage part, while if the deleted code information indicates a character, invalidates reference information pointing to the code information from among character shape data corresponding to the code information.

5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management part, when the code information storage part runs out of a free space to store the code information, performs rendering processing by using part or all of the code information stored in the code information storage part, deletes the code information having performed the rendering processing from the code information storage part, while if the deleted code information indicates a character, invalidates reference information pointing to the code information from among character shape data corresponding to the code information and stores code information pointing to rendered data generated by the rendering processing in the code information storage part.

6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management part, when the code information indicates a character and is specified to render only part of the shape of the character, stores part of shape data to render the part in the code information storage part.

7. An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a code information storage part that stores code information for

rendering;

a font storage part that stores character shape data; and

a management part that receives the code information and stores the data in the code information storage part,

wherein the management part mutually connects pieces of code information indicating the same character, stored in the code information storage part, as a mutual reference list including the shape data of the character stored in the font storage part.

8. The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a character data generation part that generates character shape data, wherein the management part, according to code information indicating a new character, generates shape data of the new character by the character data generation part and stores the shape data in the font storage part.

9. The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the management part, when storing character shape data generated by the character data generation part in the font storage part, if there is no free space in the font storage part, transfers character shape data stored in the font storage part and reference information pointing to code information referencing the shape data to the code information storage part, and modifies reference information for referencing the shape information, stored in the code information storage part, in association with code information referencing the shape data.

10. The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the management part, when the code information storage part runs out of a free space to store the code information, deletes code information for rendering from the code information stored in the code information storage

association with the shape data of the character.

16. An image forming apparatus that forms an image according to input data, comprising:

an input data analysis part that analyzes input data and classifies the data by type;

a character data processing part that converts input data for rendering a character classified by the input data analysis part into intermediate code information;

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    a font storage part that stores shape data of the a character to be
rendered;

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one or more data processing parts, each of which converts input data for rendering an object other than a character into intermediate code information according to the type;

an intermediate code information storage part that stores the intermediate code information;

an intermediate code processing part that stores the intermediate code converted by the data processing part in the intermediate code information storage part and performs rendering processing according to the intermediate code stored in the intermediate code information storage part; and

an output part that forms an image rendered by the intermediate code processing part on a recording medium,

wherein the character data processing part mutually connects pieces of intermediate code information indicating the same character as stored in the intermediate code information storage part as a mutual reference list including the shape data of the character stored in the font storage part.